(c) the details of the state roads likely to be upgraded as National Highways in Karnataka during the current plan period; and

(d) by when the task is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government is examining the question of declaring some of the State roads as National Highways

Conversion of trunk routes into Broad gauge

2692. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has been repeatedly pressing for a rapid conversion of trunk routes into Broad gauge for some of the railway lines in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received by the Central Government in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto and by when the task is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Minister of Public Works, Command Area Development & Irrigation, Government of Karnataka vide his letter dated June 3, 1987 had requested to expedite conversion of Bangalore-Mysore M.G. line into B.G. Outlay for this project in 1987-88 has been increased from original grant of Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore. Its completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Requests had also been received earlier for conversion of Bangalore-Miraj M.G. line & connected branch lines into B.G. It has not been possible to take up these conversions in view of constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand.

Air service between Belgaum and Bangalore

2693 SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air service between Belgaum and Bangalore was discontinued in 1984;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discontinuance;

(c) whether there is persistent demand in Karnataka to resume the discontinued services; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto and by when air-service between Belgaum and Bangalore is proposed to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Air service between Bangolre and Belgaum was discontinued with effect from 1st June, 1984 due to poor passenger load factor.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the public demand, air service between Bangalore and Belgaum was re-introduced with effect from 15th June, 1987.

Opening of vocational schools and colleges

2694. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open more vocational schools and colleges in the country;

(b) if so,, what are the details thereof, State-wise and Union-territory wise;